

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLI-
CATION OF : MACDOUGALL, ET. AL.

SERIAL NO. : : GRP. ART UNIT:

FILED : : EXAMINER:

FOR : MICROPOROUS FILMS HAVING REDUCED DIELECTRIC
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Subsequent to the allowance of elected Claims 1-17 of the parent application S.N. 09/518,955 filed 3 March 2000, Applicant has filed the accompanying divisional application to further prosecute non-elected Claims 18-26.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, line 4 under the subtitle, "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" of this divisional application, insert the following sentence; --This application is a divisional application of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/518,955 filed 3 March 2000.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 1-17.

Amend Claim 18 as follows:

18. A ceramic film produced by the process of producing a ceramic film on a substrate, said process comprising:

preparing a film-forming fluid comprising a ceramic precursor, a catalyst, a surfactant and solvent(s);

depositing said film-forming fluid on said substrate; and

removing said solvent(s) from said film-forming fluid on said substrate to produce said ceramic film on said substrate,

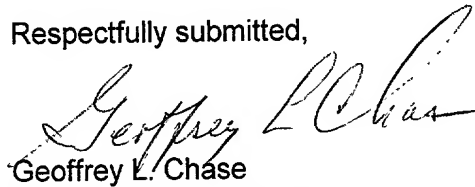
wherein said ceramic film has a dielectric constant below 2.3, and a metal content of less than 500 ppm.

REMARKS

Applicant is filing this divisional application to further prosecute non-elected Claims 18-26 of the parent application. The fee for filing this divisional application should be calculated after cancellation of original Claims 1-17. No change in inventorship is necessary. Claim 18 has been amended to recite the product by the process of Claim 1 of the parent case, but in independent format, as illustrated in the Addendum hereto.

Accompanying this Preliminary Amendment is a copy of the parent application, a copy of the executed Declaration, as well as Form 1449 and prior art, Form PTO/SB/05 and Form PTO/SB/17 to charge the filing fee, as well as any additional charges or credits to the identified Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoffrey L. Chase
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 28,059

7201 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18195-1501
(610) 481-7265

attachment: Application
Declaration
Form PTO-1449 & prior art
Form PTO/SB/05
Form PTO/SB/17

ADDENDUM

18. A ceramic film produced by the process of [Claim 1] producing a ceramic film on a substrate, said process comprising:

preparing a film-forming fluid comprising a ceramic precursor, a catalyst, a surfactant and solvent(s);

depositing said film-forming fluid on said substrate; and

removing said solvent(s) from said film-forming fluid on said substrate to produce said ceramic film on said substrate,

wherein said ceramic film has a dielectric constant below 2.3, and a metal content of less than 500 ppm.